

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Provided is a technology for increasing types of color separation in accordance with density gradients by refining the mode of setting gradients in the event of two-dimensional or three-dimensional color separation. A conventional color separation is conducted in a manner that dots indicating densities are defined in intersecting points of lines parallel to the X axis and the Y axis, respectively, in the case of two-dimensional color separation. In the case of three-dimensional color separation, dots indicating densities are defined in intersecting points of lines parallel to the XY axis, the YZ axis and the ZX axis, respectively. The present invention does not define the dots in the intersecting points of those parallel lines. Instead, the dots are configured to be shifted. An analysis based on the shifted configuration of the dots enables more secured separation than an analysis based on the conventional color separation, and resultantly the number of the dots can be increased in comparison with the conventional color separation provided that such analyses take place under the same degrees of precision.